

This Camp uses a model developed by the National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP). The primary objective of the NIYLP is developing the skills needed in today's youth to become functional, competent, independent adults and the leaders of tomorrow.



Recognizing the importance of education in general, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in particular, this twelve day summer program at Nesbit Lake in the Ottawa National Forest, and on the campus of Northern Michigan University, has been created to develop specific competencies and skills in students who will assume leadership roles in the future. The symbol of this program for American Indian students is the medicine wheel. It is important for any program to address the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all participants.

Activities at Camp Nesbit focus on group cooperation and communication, problem solving, leadership skills, self confidence, physical exercise, spiritual growth, social skills, and responsibility to self and community. Hands-on activities include a group obstacle course, high ropes course, and cooperative games. Academic activities include work with staff of the GLIFWC and other outdoor math and science activities.

Students will live in the cabins of the Camp and eat most meals in the dining commons.

Recreation will include swimming, games, canoeing, nature hikes, and many other activities. Although this program is well structured, there is time for students to enjoy themselves as part of the group. There are no televisions, radios, CD players, cards, or other distractions to the program.



Activities on the campus of NMU focus on work in the science and technology labs and in the classroom and other university facilities. Instructors from NMU and Native American Scientists from the NASA Glenn Space Center will lead classes in the four areas. Students will stay in the dormitories, eat in the dining rooms, and use university recreational facilities.

In addition to students from the Nah Tah Wahsh/Hannahville Indian School, other Indian youth programs are invited to send up to four participants and one adult to the camp. Applicants must currently be in grades seven or eight, complete a registration form, and have an adult complete a recommendation form. While grades in all classes are important, desire and potential in STEM areas are more important.

Selection will be made on the basis of the application and space available. Students will be expected to participate fully in all activities of the camp. It is important to the success of the students that they take part in all group and individual activities for academic, leadership, recreation, service and cultural awareness to the best of their abilities. At all times they will be under the supervision of the camp staff, including Nah Tah Wahsh PSA staff and other adults and college students.

Staff leadership includes Rich Sgarlotti, camp director, who is projects coordinator at the Hannahville Indian School/Nah Tah Wahsh PSA; April Lindala, director of the Center for Native Studies at NMU; and Martin Reinhardt of the University of Wisconsin – Superior.

Parents of students accepted for the program will be required to sign a permission waiver for students to participate in all activities. There will also be a form to list any insurance carrier and to allow treatment in case of a medical emergency. These forms will be provided when the student is accepted to the program. Students accepted will receive a list of items to bring, contact information, and other permissions and list of camp rules.



Brochure Designed By:
Travis Wandahsega and Erynn Teeple

Sample Schedule (Nesbit, CDST)

7:00 Rise and Shine
7:15 Physical Activity, Circle, Solo Time, Journals
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Team Building Activity
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Problem Solving Activity
3:30 Leadership Development
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Group work
7:00 Recreation
9:00 Snack
9:30 Small Group Circle
10:00 In Cabins
10:30 Lights out



For information or camper applications, contact:

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Sample Schedule (NMU, EDST)

7:00 Rise and Shine
7:30 Physical Activity, Circle, Solo Time, Journals
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 STEM Activity
12:00 Lunch
1:00 STEM Activity
3:30 Leadership Development
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Group work
7:00 Recreation
9:00 Snack
9:30 Small Group Circle
10:00 In Dorm Room
10:30 Lights out

Indian Youth Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Program June 8-19, 2009

This summer camp program for middle school (grades 7-8) students who are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics is sponsored by Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy and funded by a grant from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.



Co-sponsor for the camp is the Center for Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University.



Other co-sponsors for the camp are the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) as part of their youth development program and the



University of Wisconsin-Superior Native American Youth/Student Development Program.

